

## **RESOLUTION NO. 14-515**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carter will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary at Grille 29 in the Village of Providence on July 29, 2014; and,

**WHEREAS**, Ernestine and Richard met at U.S. Jones High School and did not start dating until her senior year. Richard was already away in college. One night, after a school function, Ernestine needed a ride home. Richard was home for the weekend and came to the rescue. This shy girl from Gallion, Alabama, did not immediately accept his offer. Playing hard to get, she thought long and hard about her options: Accept the ride or walk eight long miles home. She took the ride; and,

**WHEREAS**, it was months later, before this city boy from nearby Demopolis would talk to her again. When he called her up she wouldn't come to the phone. But, he was persistent! He called and called until she agreed to allow him to visit her at her home. They set a date to meet one Sunday after church. She told her parents that Richard Carter would be stopping by. He was the son of Deacon Eddie Carter of St. Paul Missionary Baptist church and his mother Gertrude Carter sang in the church choir; and,

**WHEREAS**, it did not take long for these two to realize they had to be together and decided to get married. So, they ran off to the courthouse in Linden, Alabama. Their efforts to elope were interrupted when they learned they needed their parent's permission since Richard was still two weeks away from his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday; and,

**WHEREAS**, Richard's father was at work so they broke the news first to his mother and sister, Bernice. Later, they asked the approval of her parents, Richard and Polly Jones. When it was quitting time at the Rock Quarry where Deacon Eddie Carter worked, they sat down with him to share their news. Both Richard and Ernestine's parents gave their blessings and passed along words of wisdom. The union found itself threatened by the Vietnam War. Richard was called to enlist, but was spared because he was married, and Ernestine was pregnant with their first child, Valorie; and,

**WHEREAS**, despite a few odd jobs here and there, Richard knew he needed work to support his new family. In 1964, they moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where Richard's brother, Norman, was living. The arrangement was short lived when Norman was called to serve in the

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war. The couple remained in Cleveland for about five years, and during that time they welcomed a baby girl, Valinsa and their only son, Richie. Big city life wasn't for them so they decided to move back south. They ended up in Huntsville, Alabama, where Richard got a job at PPG. He remained there for 36 years; and,

**WHEREAS**, Ernestine enrolled in college to earn her bachelor's degree. She worked during the day and went to school at night. It took 10 long years, but she earned her B.S. and M.S. and graduated Cum Laude from Alabama A&M University. It was later they had their fourth child, a baby girl named Valondria; and,

**WHEREAS**, Huntsville became home for Richard, Ernestine and their family. They joined First Missionary Baptist Church and watched all four of their children graduate from Alabama A&M University. They currently have four grandchildren: Rechodd Carter, Leah Lawson, Nicholas Carter, Layla Lawson and Lauren Carter.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, express their congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carter on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, and extend every good wish in all future endeavors.

**ADOPTED** this the 24th day of July, 2014

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President of the City Council of the  
City of Huntsville, Alabama

**APPROVED** this the 24th day of July, 2014.

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Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama